

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for comparing feature package operational statuses of two or more switches in expanding a telecommunication network, the system comprising:  
an first existing switch, the first switch including a first set of feature packages;  
an additional second switch, the second switch including a second set of feature packages;  
a first set of feature package information from the existing switch;  
a second set of feature package information from the additional switch; and  
a computer coupled to the first existing switch and to the second additional switch, the computer to receive [[a]] the first set of feature package information and [[a]] the second set of feature package information, the first set of feature package information corresponding to the first set of feature packages, the second set of feature package information corresponding to the second set of feature packages, the computer to compare, side by side, the first set of feature package information with the second set of feature package information, to determine if a subset of feature packages that is loaded and enabled on the existing switch is identical to a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the additional switch, wherein the first and second sets of feature package information comprise a listing of the feature package identifiers corresponding to the sets of feature packages loaded onto the existing and additional switches, respectively, and an indication as to whether one or more feature packages are enabled or disabled.
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first existing switch is an existing first telecommunications switch and the second additional switch is a second additional telecommunications switch.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first existing switch is a switch of a first central office and the second additional switch is a switch of a second central office, the first central office serving a first service area, the second central office serving a second service area, the first service area being different from the second service area.
4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first existing switch is an existing first host switch and the second additional switch is a second host switch.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first existing switch is a host switch and the second additional switch is a remote switch of the host switch.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is to receive an existing first switch identifier corresponding to the first existing switch and an additional second switch identifier corresponding to the second additional switch.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the first existing switch identifier is a first common language location identifier ("CLLI") and the second additional switch identifier is a second CLLI.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is to identify one or more feature packages having a first operational status in the first existing switch and a second operational status in the second additional switch, the first operational status being different from the second operational status.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the first operational status is one of enabled and not enabled and the second operational status is the other of enabled and not enabled.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is to identify one or more feature packages having an operational status in the first existing switch and the operational status in the second additional switch.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the operational status is enabled.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the operational status is not enabled.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is to identify one or more feature packages of the first set of feature packages that are not included in the second set of features packages.

14. (Currently amended) A method for replacing an existing switch by comparing feature package operational statuses of the existing switch and one two or more replacement switches, the method comprising:

installing and programming one or more replacement switches;

querying for and receiving an existing first switch identifier, the first switch identifier associated with an existing first switch;

querying for and receiving a second one or more replacement switch identifiers, the second switch identifier associated with a second one or more replacement switches;

receiving a first set of feature package information the first set of feature package identifiers associated with the existing first switch;

receiving at least a second set of feature package information identifiers, the second set of feature package identifiers associated with the second one or more replacement switches, wherein the first and second sets of feature package information comprise a listing of the feature package identifiers corresponding to the feature packages loaded onto the existing and the one or more replacement switches, respectively, and an indication as to whether the one or more feature packages are enabled or disabled;

comparing the first set of feature package identifiers information with the second set of feature package identifiers information to determine a common subset of feature packages existing on both the existing and replacement switches;

identifying one or more feature packages having a operational status in the one or more replacement switches that is different from the operational status in the existing switch;

conforming the set of one or more feature packages and their operating status on the one or more replacement switches to the feature packages and their operating status on the existing switch; and

disconnecting the existing switch.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first existing switch is a switch of a first central office and the second one or more replacement switches is a switch of a second central office, the first central office serving a first service area, the second central office serving a second service area, the first service area being different from the second service area.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first existing switch is a first telecommunications switch and the second one or more replacement switches is a second telecommunications switch.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the existing first switch is a first remote switch and the second one or more replacement switches is a second remote switch.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the computer is to receive an existing first switch identifier corresponding to the first existing switch and the one or more replacement a second switch identifiers corresponding to the second one or more replacement switches.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the first existing switch identifier is a first common language location identifier ("CLLI") and the second one or more replacement switch identifiers is a second CLLI.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23 14 wherein the operational status is selected from the group consisting of enabled and not enabled.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A system for comparing obtaining comprehensive feature package operational statuses of ~~two~~ one or more switches, the system comprising:  
one or more a first central office, the first central office including a first telecommunications switches, the first one or more telecommunications switches each including a first plurality of feature packages;  
a second central office, the second central office including a second telecommunications switch, the second telecommunications switch including a second plurality of feature packages;  
a communications network, the communications network coupled to the first central office and the second central office one or more telecommunications switches; and  
a computer, the computer coupled to the communications network[[,] and executing a plurality of instructions via a processor for querying the one or more telecommunication switches

and obtaining a feature package operational status for each of the one or more switches, the computer including a feature package comparison data record wherein the feature package comparison data record contains feature package information and comprises:

a feature package identifier field storing a feature package identifier corresponding to a feature package loaded onto a switch; and  
a feature package operational status identifier field storing a feature package operational status identifier indicating whether the package is enabled or disabled.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the feature package comparison data record is based at least in part on the a first set of feature package information and the at least a second set of feature package information.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining and comparing feature package operational statuses of two or more switches, the method comprising:

prompting a user to enter a first switch identifier and a second switch identifier, the first switch identifier associated with a first switch, and the second switch identifier associated with a second switch;

directing a first query to the first switch based at least in part on the first switch identifier;  
directing a second query to the second switch based at least in part on the second switch identifier;

receiving a complete first set of feature package information based at least in part on the first query;

receiving a complete second set of feature package information based at least in part on the second query; and

comparing, side by side, the complete first set of feature package information with the complete second set of feature package information to determine if a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the first switch is identical to a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the second switch, wherein the first and second sets of complete feature package information comprise a listing of the feature package identifiers corresponding to the feature packages loaded onto the first and second switches, respectively, and an indication as to

whether one or more feature packages are enabled or disabled.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein comparing the complete first set of feature package information with the complete second set of feature package information includes identifying one or more feature packages having a first operational status in the first switch and a second operational status in the second switch, the first operational status being different from the second operational status.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein comparing the complete first set of feature package information with the complete second set of feature package information includes identifying one or more feature packages having an operational status in the first switch and the operational status in the second switch.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein comparing the complete first set of feature package information with the complete second set of feature package information includes identifying one or more feature packages of the complete first set of feature packages that are not included in the complete second set of features packages.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein prompting a user to enter a first switch identifier and a second switch identifier includes prompting the user via a graphical user interface including a first switch identifier field and a second switch identifier field.

35. (Currently amended) A system for comparing feature package operational statuses of two or more switches, the system comprising:

means for receiving a first switch identifier, the first switch identifier associated with a first switch;

means for receiving a second switch identifier, the second switch identifier associated with a second switch;

means for receiving a first set of feature package information, the first set of feature package information associated with the first switch;

means for receiving a second set of feature package information, the second set of feature package information associated with the second switch; and

means for comparing, side by side, the first set of feature package information with the second set of feature package information to determine if a subset of feature packages that are

loaded and enabled on the first switch is identical to a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the second switch, wherein the first and second sets of feature package information comprise a listing of the feature package identifiers corresponding to the feature packages loaded onto the first and second switches, respectively, and an indication as to whether one or more feature packages are enabled or disabled.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for verifying the validity of the first switch identifier and the second switch identifier.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36, further comprising means for prompting a user to enter a first switch identifier and a second switch identifier.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the means for prompting includes a graphical user interface.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the means for prompting includes a means for prompting a user to select a type of comparison.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the means for prompting includes a means for prompting a user to indicate whether an office conversion is complete, the office conversion associated with at least one of the first switch and the second switch.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for prompting includes a means for prompting a user to enter a telephone equipment order identifier associated with the office conversion.

42. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the first switch and the second switch are from the same switch manufacturer.

43. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the first switch and the second switch are the same type of switch from a switch manufacturer.

44. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the first switch is a replacement switch for the second switch.

45. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the means for comparing includes means for identifying one or more feature packages having a first operational status in the first switch and a second operational status in the second switch, the first operational status being different from the second operational status.

46. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the means for comparing includes means for identifying one or more feature packages having an operational status in the first switch and the operational status in the second switch.

47. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the means for comparing includes means for identifying one or more feature packages of the first set of feature packages that are not included in the second set of features packages.

48. (Currently amended) A method for comparing feature package operational statuses of two or more switches employed in expanding a telecommunication network, the method comprising:

a step for receiving a first switch identifier, the first switch identifier associated with a first switch;

a step for receiving an additional second-switch identifier, the second switch identifier associated with an additional second switch;

a step for receiving a first set of feature package information, the first set of feature package information associated with the first switch;

a step for receiving a second set of feature package information, the second set of feature package information associated with the additional second-switch; and

a step for comparing, side by side, the first set of feature package information with the second set of feature package information to determine if a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the first switch is identical to a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the additional switch, wherein the first and second sets of feature package information comprise a listing of the feature package identifiers corresponding to the feature packages loaded onto the first and additional switches, respectively, and an indication as to whether one or more feature packages are enabled or disabled.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the step for comparing includes a step for identifying one or more feature packages having a first operational status in the first switch and a second operational status in the second additional switch, the first operational status being different from the second operational status.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the step for comparing includes a step for identifying one or more feature packages having an operational status in the first switch and the operational status in the second additional switch.

51. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the step for comparing includes a step for identifying one or more feature packages of the first set of feature packages that are not included in the second set of features packages.

52. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a processor for comparing feature package operational statuses of two or more switches, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

receive a first switch identifier, the first switch identifier associated with a first switch;  
receive a second switch identifier, the second switch identifier associated with a second switch;

receive a first set of feature package information, the first set of feature package information associated with the first switch;

receive a second set of feature package information, the second set of feature package information associated with the second switch; and

compare, side by side, the first set of feature package information with the second set of feature package information to determine if a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the first switch is identical to a subset of feature packages that are loaded and enabled on the second switch, wherein the first and second sets of feature package information comprise a listing of the feature package identifiers corresponding to the feature packages loaded onto the first and second switches, respectively, and an indication as to whether one or more feature packages are enabled or disabled.

53. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the instructions to compare include instructions to identify one or more feature packages having a first operational status in the first switch and a second operational status in the second switch, the first operational status

being different from the second operational status.

54. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the instructions to compare include instructions to identify one or more feature packages having an operational status in the first switch and the operational status in the second switch.

55. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the instructions to compare include instructions to identify one or more feature packages of the first set of feature packages that are not included in the second set of features packages.